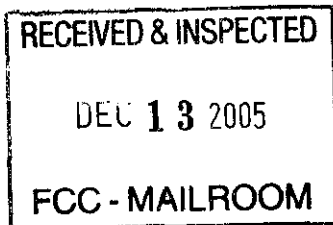


EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



3685-A N. Fruit Ave.
Fresno, CA 93705-2928

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC, 20554

96-45
DOCKETED FOR ORIGINAL ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Martin:

Please drop plans to change the USF from collection on a usage basis to a flat fee. Citizens who save money by limiting their phone calls should not be penalized for doing so.

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users, like students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers, to give up their phones because of unaffordable increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low-volume users is radical and unnecessary. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small businesses all across America.

It is no defense to say that the law doesn't require phone companies to pass the charges on; they do so, regardless. Making those who use less pay for the calls of high-use customers is blatantly unfair.

Sincerely,

Lucile Wheaton

Lucile Wheaton

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

DEC 13 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

P.O. Box 694

Gualala, CA 95445-0694

December 5, 2005

DOCKETED 12/05/05 ORIGINAL

ab

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC, 20554

ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Martin:

Please drop plans to change the USF from collection on a usage basis to a flat fee. Citizens who save money by limiting their phone calls should not be penalized for doing so.

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users, like students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers, to give up their phones because of unaffordable increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low-volume users is radical and unnecessary. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small businesses all across America.

It is no defense to say that the law doesn't require phone companies to pass the charges on; they do so, regardless. Making those who use less pay for the calls of high-use customers is blatantly unfair.

Sincerely,

Jan Venolia

Jan Venolia

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

DEC 13 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Becki Nelles

27240 Engoe Road , Washburn, Wisconsin 54891

December 05, 2005 02:27 PM

ORIGINAL

Kevin J. Martin, FCC Chairman
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Subject: Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

Dear Mr. Martin:

I have serious concerns regarding the Federal Communications Commissions' (FCC) position to change the Universal Service Fund (USF) collection method to a monthly flat fee. Many people, including me, my friends, family and neighbors, will be negatively impacted by the unfair change proposed by the FCC.

As you know, USF is currently collected on a revenue basis. People who use more pay more into the system. If the FCC changes that system to a flat fee, that means that someone who uses one thousand minutes a month of long distance, pays the same amount into the fund as someone who uses zero minutes of long distance a month. People who use their limited resources wisely should not be penalized for doing so.

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users like my family, students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers, to give up their phones due to unaffordable monthly increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low-volume users is radical and unnecessary. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small businesses all across America. While I am aware that federal law does not require companies to recover, or "pass along" these fees to their customers, the reality is that they do. As a consumer I would like ensure I am charged fairly. If the FCC goes to a numbers taxed, my service will cost more. And according to the Keep USF Fair Coalition's recent meetings with top FCC officials, the FCC has plans to change to a flat fee system soon and without legislation.

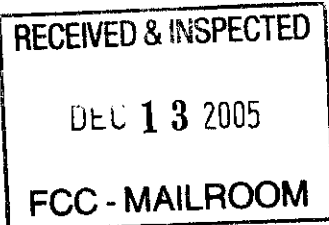
The FCC needs to keep collecting the USF based on the volume of usage and not a flat fee. If changed to a flat fee system, they will be unfairly charging thousands of Americans, myself included. Most Americans do not want to be charged unfairly! The FCC would be doing a great disservice to America by changing this.

Sincerely,


Becki Nelles

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



1789 Leimert Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94602-1929

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL *ab*

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC, 20554

ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Martin:

Please drop plans to change the USF from collection on a usage basis to a flat fee. Citizens who save money by limiting their phone calls should not be penalized for doing so.

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users, like students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers, to give up their phones because of unaffordable increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low-volume users is radical and unnecessary. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small businesses all across America.

It is no defense to say that the law doesn't require phone companies to pass the charges on; they do so, regardless. Making those who use less pay for the calls of high-use customers is blatantly unfair.

Sincerely,

John Eric Imholz

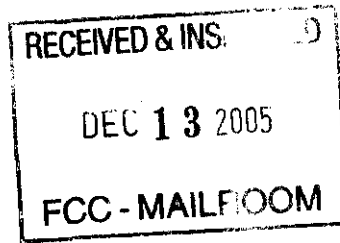
No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

P. O. Box 460694

Papillion, NE 68046-0694

2 Dec 2005



16-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

FCC, Chairman Kevin J. Martin

445 12th St, SW

Washington, DC 30554

Dear Mr. Martin,

Subject: Universal Service Fund (USF)

I have been trying to learn more about this tax/ fee since 1998, when the charge first appeared on my phone bill. My phone company, Qwest, gave me the complete run-around. A friend told me it was a Gore-tax, that is, a brilliant idea of Al Gore (sarcasm). CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS?

Mr. Martin, you have to remember that not everyone is rich (rolling in money). Switching to a flat rate would cause some low income and elderly to lose their phone service, therefore you will lose the revenue, so who wins??????

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users, like students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers, to give up their phones due to unaffordable monthly increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low-volume users is radical and unnecessary. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small businesses all across America.

Thank you for your time—please think about the consequences of shifting the funding burden.

Sincerely

Opal E. McKenzie

P. O. Box 460694

Papillion, NE 68046

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Charlene Peavey

103 Main Rd , Charleston, Maine 04422-3169

RECEIVED & INDEXED

DEC 13 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

December 05, 2005 02:02 PM

FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin

445 12th St. SW

Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

Subject: Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

Dear FCC Chairman, Mr. Martin

I have serious concerns regarding the Federal Communications Commissions' (FCC) position to change the Universal Service Fund (USF) collection method to a monthly flat fee. Many of my friends, family and neighbors, will be negatively impacted by the unfair change proposed by the FCC. I am retired, on a fixed income, and seldom make long distance calls because I cannot afford them. I have to rely on my children who live great distances from me to do the calling. Sometimes those calls are few and far between.

As you know, USF is currently collected on a revenue basis. People who use more pay more into the system. This sounds fair to me. If the FCC changes that system to a flat fee, that means that someone who uses one thousand minutes a month of long distance, pays the same amount into the fund as someone who uses zero minutes of long distance a month. Why should this be? It sounds very unfair to me. People who use their limited resources wisely should not be penalized for doing so.

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users, like students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers, to give up their phones due to unaffordable monthly increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low-volume users is radical and UNNECESSARY. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small businesses all across America.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition, of which I am a member, keeps me informed about the USF issue with monthly newsletters and up to date information on their website, including links to FCC information. While I am aware that federal law does not require companies to recover, or "pass along" these fees to their customers, the reality is that they do. As a consumer I would like to ensure I am charged fairly. If the FCC goes to a numbers taxed, my service will cost more. And according to the Coalition's recent meetings with top FCC officials, the FCC has plans to change to a flat fee system soon and without legislation. I sincerely urge you to reconsider.

I will continue to monitor developments on the issue and continue to spread the word to my community.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing about your position on this matter.

Sincerely,


Charlene Peavey

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

DEC 13 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

December 3, 2005

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

96-45

FCC

Chairman Kevin Martin

445 12 St., SW

Washington DC 20554

ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is come to my attention the FCC wants to raise the USF tax to a flat fee. Every year I look at my phone bill and am astounded how many charges on it have nothing to do with any calls I have made, just new taxes that sneak in every few years or so.

The latest proposal to raise revenues for the FCC by charging a flat fee versus a usage fee is particularly irritating. For instance, we have 4 prepaid wireless cell phones for each member of our family. We rarely use them, just to work out rides, etc. and it is cheaper for us to use prepaid. That would mean each of these phones, which make no long distance calls, would have to pay a new tax. We probably would have to eliminate them completely as our taxes and expenses are high enough.

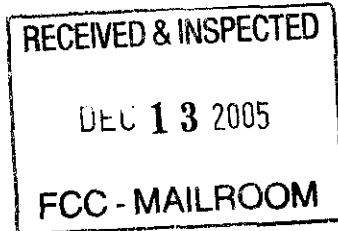
There seems to be no logical reason to penalize old people on a fixed income and others who choose not to make long distance calls by imposing a new fee on them. Those who use long distance should pay the tax. On our landline phone I have cut our calls considerably because all the extra charges and taxes do not fit into our budget. Maybe that's why you need to raise taxes. A flat fee is not the answer - if you think it is then maybe this item should be made more public so the public at large could comment on it.

Sincerely,

Dianne McGrail

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



1455 Paloma Place
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC, 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIG

AS
96

ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Martin:

Please drop plans to change the USF from collection on a usage basis to a flat fee. Citizens who save money by limiting their phone calls should not be penalized for doing so.

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users, like students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers, to give up their phones because of unaffordable increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low-volume users is radical and unnecessary. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small businesses all across America.

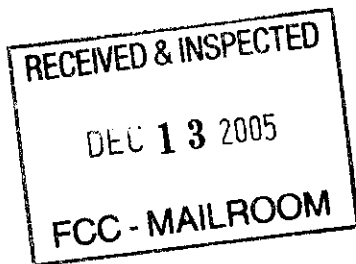
It is no defense to say that the law doesn't require phone companies to pass the charges on; they do so, regardless. Making those who use less pay for the calls of high-use customers is blatantly unfair.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is "Robert T. Welborn" and the second is "Anna Moloney".

Robert T. Welborn & Anna Moloney

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96 Benson Rd
Bridgewater, CT 6752-1503

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC, 20554

POCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

96-45

Dear Mr. Martin:

Please drop plans to change the USF from collection on a usage basis to a flat fee. Citizens who save money by limiting their phone calls should not be penalized for doing so.

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users, like students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers, to give up their phones because of unaffordable increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low-volume users is radical and unnecessary. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small businesses all across America.

It is no defense to say that the law doesn't require phone companies to pass the charges on; they do so, regardless. Making those who use less pay for the calls of high-use customers is blatantly unfair.

Sincerely,

Elaine E. Pratt

No. of Copies rec'd 10
List ABCDE